Selected Eighteenth Century

Wilmington Historical Sites

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Selected

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WILMINGTON HISTORICAL SITES

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With Information

Compiled and Edited

by

Adele C. Passmore, Chairman

Wilmington Historical Commission

January, 1976

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WILMINGTON
Incorporated 1730

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Harnden Tavern 430 Salem Street	Circa 1770
Bond House and Bakery 191 Middlesex Avenue	Circa 1759
Pearson Tavern 344 Salem Street	Circa 1738
Cadwallader Ford House 300 Salem Street	1720
Site of First Meeting House and Old Burial Place Middlesex Avenue	1731
Blanchard House 200 Middlesex Avenue	Circa 1724
Old Town Pound and Town Hall 200 Middlesex Avenue (rear)	
Rev. Isaac Morrill House 89 Middlesex Avenue	1705
The Middlesex Canal	Charter Dates 1793-1853
Gillis Lock House 12 Shawsheen Avenue	1803
William Butters II House 165 Chestnut Street	1682
Baldwin Apple Monument	Erected 1895
Asa G. Sheldon House 604 Woburn Street	1785
Daniel Eames House 584 Woburn Street	1723
Buck Homestead 216 Wildwood Street	Circa 1672 and 1770
Site of Harnden Massacre North of Woburn Street School	1707

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The building was modified for use as a tavern in 1795 by Col. Joshua Harnden. Situated on a principal road running from Salem to New Hampshire, it served as such for thirteen years until 1807, when Joshua died. In 1818 the house passed into the hands of Dr. Silas Brown and his family, whose descendents were to retain it for 125 years.

The Tavern, which is an excellent example of the Georgian style of architecture, was saved from destruction in 1973 by the citizens of Wilmington through use of newly enacted legislation authorizing the power of eminent domain for the preservation of historic properties.

BOND HOUSE AND BAKERY Circa 1759 191 Middlesex Avenue

This house, which is today the Parsonage for the Congregational Church, is apparently much altered from its original form. It was apparently built as an Early-American Half-House to which more rooms were later added. In 1775 Joseph, later called Capt. Joseph, is said to have slipped off to war with the troops. Being too young to fight, he was put in the bakery, where he learned the trade so well that after the war he opened a bakery of his own next door to his home. In 1808 he turned the business over to his sons, Joseph, Jr. and William, who expanded the business. The Bond Cracker became known both near and far, and Bond bread can still be bought today. The house, also, was expanded so that by 1854, when it was presented to the church by Thomas D. Bond, a grandson of Capt. Joseph, to be used as a parsonage, it was in its present form and shape.

PEARSON TAVERN Circa 1738 344 Salem Street

Probably built by Deacon Kendall Pierson for his second wife, Lydia Jaques, whom he married January 30, 1738. The old home remained in the Pearson family for about 200 years. Kendall was a Captain in the "Train Band" or Militia, and served with his son, Ensign Nathan, in the French and Indian Wars. Nathan was a member of the Committee formed May 17, 1780, to consider the proposed Constitution for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which had been referred to the towns. Moses, son of Nathan, served under Capt. Cadwallader Ford, Jr. as one of the twenty-seven "Minnit Men" who marched to Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775. Aaron, son of Nathan by his second wife, became Major Aaron Pearson of the Massachusetts Militia during the War of 1812.

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hired by Major Aaron in 1807 to work at lumbering in the sawmill at Nod Pond. Asa roomed with the Pearson family then and again when he was first married to Clarissa Eames.

Later, until about 1850, Aaron Pearson, Jr. operated his house as a "stop-over" for teamsters and other travelers on the road from the port of Salem to Lowell after the mills were erected in that city and before the railroad became established. It was during this period that the house became known as the "Pearson Tavern". The entire second floor was one common sleeping room, heated by two fireplaces.

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Cadwallader Ford, Jr. was born here November 27, 1743. As Town Clerk in 1773, he recorded "The Wilmington Resolves", a document setting forth the grievances of the Colonists here and asking for redress of the General Court at Boston. He was elected Commander of the company of "Minnit Men" which was organized in Wilmington, March 9, 1775, and led twenty-seven men to Concord on April 19. In May, 1776, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Isaac Morrill.

SITE OF FIRST MEETING HOUSE 1731-32 Middlesex Avenue
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The second town meeting of Wilmington was held in the school house (probably on Butters Row) December 3, 1730. It was voted to build a meeting house 46 by 30 by 20, "the body of the house to be all of oak, and the planks to be full 1½ in. thick". There was some disagreement as to where the meeting house should stand. It was finally decided to place it over by the wall of the old cemetery. The first preacher, Rev. James Varney, was ordained October 24, 1733. That same day there were seventeen members. He was followed after six years by the Rev. Isaac Morrill, who served the people of Wilmington for 53 years until his death in 1793.

In September, 1731, it was voted at the town meeting that Kendall Pierson, Joseph Lewis, Sr. and Abraham Jaquith "be a committee to procure a Decent Burial place for to burey ye Dead in for ye town". It is a pathetic coincidence that in December of this same year William, the nine-year-old son of Kendall Pierson became "ye first bury'd in this place" as his stone declares. Some of the stones which were originally in the old cemetery have been removed to the one across the street.

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The house may have been built by Thomas Rich, Jr., whose first child was born in 1724. Thomas sold an acre and a quarter of adjacent land to the Town for its church site and burial place May 17, 1733. He was also listed as one of the seventeen original members of the Church of Christ at Wilmington in that same year.

John Gould may have been born here in 1752. He was one of the twenty-seven "Minnit Men" who answered the call to arms on April 19, 1775.

In 1801, William Blanchard, Jr., the son of Col. William Blanchard of Revolutionary War fame, married Betsey Ford, a daughter of Capt. Cadwallader Ford, and althogether they had thirteen children. The second Church of Christ (Congregational) was built on land acquired from William Blanchard in 1813. Known as Squire Blanchard, he was the State Inspector of Hops, a position of dignity and importance, inasmuch as his salary, $2,000, was equal to that of the Governor, and with that exception, he was the highest paid of any official in the State. Hops were sent to Albany and there they were manufactured into beer. The house was much altered by the Blanchard family during the nineteenth century. It has a window on the upper floor in the stairwell which tradition says was put there that one might be able to see right through the house in either direction when watching for Indians.

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REV. ISAAC MORRILL HOUSE 1705 89 Middlesex Avenue

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In 1722 Kendall Pierson purchased the house and probably the mills, also. At a town meeting in 1732, Kendall was named a member of the committee formed "to treat with ministers for preaching". The General Court had ordered the new town in October, 1730, to establish its own church within three years. Kendall Pierson was one of the seventeen original church members. He later became Deacon. The Piersons lived here until 1737, when Lydia (Boardman), Kendall's wife, died. The house was then sold to Benjamin Lewis, who in turn sold it to the Rev. Isaac Morrill.

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GILLIS LOCK HOUSE 1803 12 Shawsheen Avenue

The old Canal House is one of the few remaining memorials of the great days of the Middlesex Canal. Two of the twenty canal locks were in Wilmington. One was the Nichols Lock near Nichols Street. The other was named after Josiah Gillis. The Gillis Lock House was built by the canal company in 1803 for the convenience of boatsmen and raftsmen. Sometimes the lock houses were called "inns", but an ordinary traveler would be accomodated only if there was room. The boatsmen had first call for meals and for sleeping quarters if they desired them. All traffic halted at night on the canal. After Josiah Gillis died, his wife managed to run the house for some time. Thus, it was known as the Widow Gillis Lock House.

Daniel Gowing succeeded the Gillises and was here for about ten years in the closing days of the Canal. Living with the Gowings was a young girl who, as Mrs. Mary Carter, recalled the rush and bustle at the lock house. "It was the custom of the boatmen to signal their approach to the locks by vigorous tooting of a horn." (except on Sundays) "For the people who prepared the meals, this horn was notice that some hungry men would be arriving soon." The last barge passed through the canal in 1846. The coming of the railroad, which so nearly paralleled its course, had put it out of business.

WILLIAM BUTTERS II HOUSE 1682 165 Chestnut Street

William Butters II was the first white child born in what is now Wilmington. His mother may have been an Indian. He was born in 1665, and married Rebecca Jones in 1687. He was the father of twelve children, who spread out to the north along the way, thus giving his name to Butters Row. This house, which is a "Saltbox" style half-house, is more nearly in its original condition than the others. It was occupied successively by William Butters III and IV. Will Butters II was honored late in life by being on the first Board of Selectmen in the new Town of Wilmington. His home is the oldest house standing in its original form in Wilmington today.

BALDWIN "BUTTERS" APPLE MONUMENT Chestnut Street

The Baldwin "Butters" Apple is believed to have come from a wild tree taken from the woods on what is called Wood-hill by William Butters III, and transplanted about fourteen rods from his back door. While surveying for the layout of the Middlesex Canal in 1793, Samuel Thompson of Woburn had his attention called to the tree because of the sound of a woodpecker. From that tree Colonel Loammi Baldwin cut scions for his own orchard. He cultivated it extensively, finally giving it his name. In 1895 the Rumford Historical Association erected the Baldwin Apple Monument a few rods to the north of the home ofWilliam Butters II. The inscription, renewed in 1974, reads "This Monument marks the site of the First Baldwin Apple Tree found growing wild near here. It fell in the gale of 1815. The Apple first known as the Butters, Woodpecker or Pecker Apple was named after Col. Loammi Baldwin of Woburn."

ASA G. SHELDON HOUSE Circa 1785 604 Woburn Street

Asa G. Sheldon was born in Lynnfield in 1788. He came to Wilmington in his youth, worked for Major Aaron Pearson, Col. William Blanchard and lived at various times at the Pearson Tavern and the Harnden Tavern. He was proprietor of Nod Mill by the time he was twenty-one. He married Clarissa Eames on October 3, 1815. Asa was a terrifically hard worker. During his work-life he cleared many a wood lot, hauling the logs to the mill with the help of a team of oxen, then cutting and shipping the boards. He trucked hops, shoes and milled flour to market. Perhaps his greatest achievement was his organizing of the cutting down of Pemberton Hill in Boston, and the filling in of Dock Square with the help of ox teams. He also helped lay out the Salem and Lowell Railroad, and built many of the stone abuttments which survive today along the Boston and Lowell Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad.

In his retirement years he wrote an autobiography "Asa G. Sheldon - Wilmington Farmer" which is of considerable interest as a sketch of life in Wilmington, a typical country town, between 1800 and 1860.

DANIEL EAMES HOUSE 1723 584 Woburn Street

This house was built by Ephraim Buck about 1723, and sold to Daniel Eames at about the time he married Abigail Harnden Nurse. She was one of the children to survive the Harnden Massacre in 1707, and the widow of Jonathan Nurse, whose mother, Rebecca, had been put to death at the time of the Salem Witch Trials. This house became the home of the Eames family for over 150 years, although Daniel moved to Haverhill in 1748, leaving it to his son, John. Daniel Eames was a partner of Cadwallader Ford, Esq. Together they purchased certificates which the Colony had given its soldiers after taking part in the French and Indian Wars. These certificates were later redeemed for land in Maine.

BUCK HOMESTEAD Circa 1672 and 1770 216 Wildwood Street

The first part of this house was built in 1672 by Roger Buck and his son, Ephraim. It was a duplex from the beginning, with the house, barn and land all being divided. The front part of the house was built around the time of the Revolutionary War. This home remained in the Buck family for over 250 years. Among those to be born in this house were Col. Jonathan Buck, founder of Bucksport in Maine; and Ephraim who as an old man killed the last bear seen in Wilmington. Ephraim, Jr., who was Constable in 1774, paid the taxes to the Town Treasurer instead of to King George III. Another man born here was Benjamin Buck. He gave the parsonage back to the Church in 1876, after it had been turned over to him in payment of a loan.

SITE OF HARNDEN MASSACRE August 12, 1707 North of Woburn Street Schol

One evening we are told, Benjamin Harnden accidently killed an Indian squaw who was lying in the road as he returned home on horseback from Woburn. Several Indians appeared one night bent on revenge to Benjamin's family. But, Benjamin lived in his father's house,and the Indians found the home a few hundred yards to the south belonging to his brother, John, instead. John was not at home. He was a Deacon in the Church at Reading and had gone there on business. The Indians attacked his home, chopped a hole in the roof, and having gained entrance, killed Mrs. Harnden and ten-year-old Mary. One child, fifteen-year-old Abigail, was shot with an arrow and thrown into nearby Morris Pond, where she was revived by the water. The other children ran and hid behind a huge boulder nearby. They were soon discovered and taken captive. However, they were rescued the next day. They were twelve-year-old Susann, four-year-old John and two-year-old Hephzibah.

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Selected

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WILMINGTON HISTORICAL SITES

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With Information

Compiled and Edited

by

Adele C. Passmore, Chairman

Wilmington Historical Commission

January, 1976

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Incorporated 1730

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The building was modified for use as a tavern in 1795 by Col. Joshua Harnden. Situated on a principal road running from Salem to New Hampshire, it served as such for thirteen years until 1807, when Joshua died. In 1818 the house passed into the hands of Dr. Silas Brown and his family, whose descendents were to retain it for 125 years.

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In September, 1731, it was voted at the town meeting that Kendall Pierson, Joseph Lewis, Sr. and Abraham Jaquith "be a committee to procure a Decent Burial place for to burey ye Dead in for ye town". It is a pathetic coincidence that in December of this same year William, the nine-year-old son of Kendall Pierson became "ye first bury'd in this place" as his stone declares. Some of the stones which were originally in the old cemetery have been removed to the one across the street.

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The house may have been built by Thomas Rich, Jr., whose first child was born in 1724. Thomas sold an acre and a quarter of adjacent land to the Town for its church site and burial place May 17, 1733. He was also listed as one of the seventeen original members of the Church of Christ at Wilmington in that same year.

John Gould may have been born here in 1752. He was one of the twenty-seven "Minnit Men" who answered the call to arms on April 19, 1775.

In 1801, William Blanchard, Jr., the son of Col. William Blanchard of Revolutionary War fame, married Betsey Ford, a daughter of Capt. Cadwallader Ford, and althogether they had thirteen children. The second Church of Christ (Congregational) was built on land acquired from William Blanchard in 1813. Known as Squire Blanchard, he was the State Inspector of Hops, a position of dignity and importance, inasmuch as his salary, $2,000, was equal to that of the Governor, and with that exception, he was the highest paid of any official in the State. Hops were sent to Albany and there they were manufactured into beer. The house was much altered by the Blanchard family during the nineteenth century. It has a window on the upper floor in the stairwell which tradition says was put there that one might be able to see right through the house in either direction when watching for Indians.

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This house was built beside Mill Brook by Daniel Snow about 1705. He built and operated both a grist mill and a saw mill at this site.

In 1722 Kendall Pierson purchased the house and probably the mills, also. At a town meeting in 1732, Kendall was named a member of the committee formed "to treat with ministers for preaching". The General Court had ordered the new town in October, 1730, to establish its own church within three years. Kendall Pierson was one of the seventeen original church members. He later became Deacon. The Piersons lived here until 1737, when Lydia (Boardman), Kendall's wife, died. The house was then sold to Benjamin Lewis, who in turn sold it to the Rev. Isaac Morrill.

Ordained on his twenty-third birthday, May 20, 1741, he bacame the

second pastor of the Church of Christ in Wilmington, and probably its greatest and most beloved. Rev. Morrill was an ardent patriot. During the French and Indian Wars at the seige of Ticonderoga, he was Chaplain in Chief to the Massachusetts forces, enduring the winter with the soldiers. His salary was given in silver dollars, and his love for his church was so great that he had them melted down and made into a communion set which he presented to the church. Then, on the 19th of April, 1775, he was again at the scene of battle, this time at Lexington and Concord. Five years after the Battle of Lexington, it was Mr. Morrill who was asked to deliver the sermon at the first commemoration service to be held there. Rev. Isaac Morrill served the church at Wilmington for nearly fifty-three years until his death on August 7, 1793.

THE MIDDLESEX CANAL 1793-1853 (Charter Dates)

Chartered in June, 1793, the plan conceived by Hon. James Sullivan was concluded to be feasible after consultation with Col. Loammi Baldwin, widely known projector and engineer. With Sullivan as President and Baldwin as first Vice President, Samuel Thomspon, a local surveyor, was engaged to make a preliminary examination of the route. His report was not favorable, but the scheme was not abandoned. Mr. Samuel Weston, an eminent engineer from Pennsylvania, was secured and he prepared the plans from which the Middlesex Canal was constructed. It opened for business in 1803, connecting the Merrimac River at Lowell with Boston. One of the most history-making undertakings of our country-side, it is supposed to be the first artificial waterway for commercial purposes in America. The coming of the steam railroad put it out of business in 1846.

GILLIS LOCK HOUSE 1803 12 Shawsheen Avenue

The old Canal House is one of the few remaining memorials of the great days of the Middlesex Canal. Two of the twenty canal locks were in Wilmington. One was the Nichols Lock near Nichols Street. The other was named after Josiah Gillis. The Gillis Lock House was built by the canal company in 1803 for the convenience of boatsmen and raftsmen. Sometimes the lock houses were called "inns", but an ordinary traveler would be accomodated only if there was room. The boatsmen had first call for meals and for sleeping quarters if they desired them. All traffic halted at night on the canal. After Josiah Gillis died, his wife managed to run the house for some time. Thus, it was known as the Widow Gillis Lock House.

Daniel Gowing succeeded the Gillises and was here for about ten years in the closing days of the Canal. Living with the Gowings was a young girl who, as Mrs. Mary Carter, recalled the rush and bustle at the lock house. "It was the custom of the boatmen to signal their approach to the locks by vigorous tooting of a horn." (except on Sundays) "For the people who prepared the meals, this horn was notice that some hungry men would be arriving soon." The last barge passed through the canal in 1846. The coming of the railroad, which so nearly paralleled its course, had put it out of business.

WILLIAM BUTTERS II HOUSE 1682 165 Chestnut Street

William Butters II was the first white child born in what is now Wilmington. His mother may have been an Indian. He was born in 1665, and married Rebecca Jones in 1687. He was the father of twelve children, who spread out to the north along the way, thus giving his name to Butters Row. This house, which is a "Saltbox" style half-house, is more nearly in its original condition than the others. It was occupied successively by William Butters III and IV. Will Butters II was honored late in life by being on the first Board of Selectmen in the new Town of Wilmington. His home is the oldest house standing in its original form in Wilmington today.

BALDWIN "BUTTERS" APPLE MONUMENT Chestnut Street

The Baldwin "Butters" Apple is believed to have come from a wild tree taken from the woods on what is called Wood-hill by William Butters III, and transplanted about fourteen rods from his back door. While surveying for the layout of the Middlesex Canal in 1793, Samuel Thompson of Woburn had his attention called to the tree because of the sound of a woodpecker. From that tree Colonel Loammi Baldwin cut scions for his own orchard. He cultivated it extensively, finally giving it his name. In 1895 the Rumford Historical Association erected the Baldwin Apple Monument a few rods to the north of the home ofWilliam Butters II. The inscription, renewed in 1974, reads "This Monument marks the site of the First Baldwin Apple Tree found growing wild near here. It fell in the gale of 1815. The Apple first known as the Butters, Woodpecker or Pecker Apple was named after Col. Loammi Baldwin of Woburn."

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In 1722 Kendall Pierson purchased the house and probably the mills, also. At a town meeting in 1732, Kendall was named a member of the committee formed "to treat with ministers for preaching". The General Court had ordered the new town in October, 1730, to establish its own church within three years. Kendall Pierson was one of the seventeen original church members. He later became Deacon. The Piersons lived here until 1737, when Lydia (Boardman), Kendall's wife, died. The house was then sold to Benjamin Lewis, who in turn sold it to the Rev. Isaac Morrill.

Ordained on his twenty-third birthday, May 20, 1741, he bacame the

second pastor of the Church of Christ in Wilmington, and probably its greatest and most beloved. Rev. Morrill was an ardent patriot. During the French and Indian Wars at the seige of Ticonderoga, he was Chaplain in Chief to the Massachusetts forces, enduring the winter with the soldiers. His salary was given in silver dollars, and his love for his church was so great that he had them melted down and made into a communion set which he presented to the church. Then, on the 19th of April, 1775, he was again at the scene of battle, this time at Lexington and Concord. Five years after the Battle of Lexington, it was Mr. Morrill who was asked to deliver the sermon at the first commemoration service to be held there. Rev. Isaac Morrill served the church at Wilmington for nearly fifty-three years until his death on August 7, 1793.

THE MIDDLESEX CANAL 1793-1853 (Charter Dates)

Chartered in June, 1793, the plan conceived by Hon. James Sullivan was concluded to be feasible after consultation with Col. Loammi Baldwin, widely known projector and engineer. With Sullivan as President and Baldwin as first Vice President, Samuel Thomspon, a local surveyor, was engaged to make a preliminary examination of the route. His report was not favorable, but the scheme was not abandoned. Mr. Samuel Weston, an eminent engineer from Pennsylvania, was secured and he prepared the plans from which the Middlesex Canal was constructed. It opened for business in 1803, connecting the Merrimac River at Lowell with Boston. One of the most history-making undertakings of our country-side, it is supposed to be the first artificial waterway for commercial purposes in America. The coming of the steam railroad put it out of business in 1846.

GILLIS LOCK HOUSE 1803 12 Shawsheen Avenue

The old Canal House is one of the few remaining memorials of the great days of the Middlesex Canal. Two of the twenty canal locks were in Wilmington. One was the Nichols Lock near Nichols Street. The other was named after Josiah Gillis. The Gillis Lock House was built by the canal company in 1803 for the convenience of boatsmen and raftsmen. Sometimes the lock houses were called "inns", but an ordinary traveler would be accomodated only if there was room. The boatsmen had first call for meals and for sleeping quarters if they desired them. All traffic halted at night on the canal. After Josiah Gillis died, his wife managed to run the house for some time. Thus, it was known as the Widow Gillis Lock House.

Daniel Gowing succeeded the Gillises and was here for about ten years in the closing days of the Canal. Living with the Gowings was a young girl who, as Mrs. Mary Carter, recalled the rush and bustle at the lock house. "It was the custom of the boatmen to signal their approach to the locks by vigorous tooting of a horn." (except on Sundays) "For the people who prepared the meals, this horn was notice that some hungry men would be arriving soon." The last barge passed through the canal in 1846. The coming of the railroad, which so nearly paralleled its course, had put it out of business.

WILLIAM BUTTERS II HOUSE 1682 165 Chestnut Street

William Butters II was the first white child born in what is now Wilmington. His mother may have been an Indian. He was born in 1665, and married Rebecca Jones in 1687. He was the father of twelve children, who spread out to the north along the way, thus giving his name to Butters Row. This house, which is a "Saltbox" style half-house, is more nearly in its original condition than the others. It was occupied successively by William Butters III and IV. Will Butters II was honored late in life by being on the first Board of Selectmen in the new Town of Wilmington. His home is the oldest house standing in its original form in Wilmington today.

BALDWIN "BUTTERS" APPLE MONUMENT Chestnut Street

The Baldwin "Butters" Apple is believed to have come from a wild tree taken from the woods on what is called Wood-hill by William Butters III, and transplanted about fourteen rods from his back door. While surveying for the layout of the Middlesex Canal in 1793, Samuel Thompson of Woburn had his attention called to the tree because of the sound of a woodpecker. From that tree Colonel Loammi Baldwin cut scions for his own orchard. He cultivated it extensively, finally giving it his name. In 1895 the Rumford Historical Association erected the Baldwin Apple Monument a few rods to the north of the home ofWilliam Butters II. The inscription, renewed in 1974, reads "This Monument marks the site of the First Baldwin Apple Tree found growing wild near here. It fell in the gale of 1815. The Apple first known as the Butters, Woodpecker or Pecker Apple was named after Col. Loammi Baldwin of Woburn."

ASA G. SHELDON HOUSE Circa 1785 604 Woburn Street

Asa G. Sheldon was born in Lynnfield in 1788. He came to Wilmington in his youth, worked for Major Aaron Pearson, Col. William Blanchard and lived at various times at the Pearson Tavern and the Harnden Tavern. He was proprietor of Nod Mill by the time he was twenty-one. He married Clarissa Eames on October 3, 1815. Asa was a terrifically hard worker. During his work-life he cleared many a wood lot, hauling the logs to the mill with the help of a team of oxen, then cutting and shipping the boards. He trucked hops, shoes and milled flour to market. Perhaps his greatest achievement was his organizing of the cutting down of Pemberton Hill in Boston, and the filling in of Dock Square with the help of ox teams. He also helped lay out the Salem and Lowell Railroad, and built many of the stone abuttments which survive today along the Boston and Lowell Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad.

In his retirement years he wrote an autobiography "Asa G. Sheldon - Wilmington Farmer" which is of considerable interest as a sketch of life in Wilmington, a typical country town, between 1800 and 1860.

DANIEL EAMES HOUSE 1723 584 Woburn Street

This house was built by Ephraim Buck about 1723, and sold to Daniel Eames at about the time he married Abigail Harnden Nurse. She was one of the children to survive the Harnden Massacre in 1707, and the widow of Jonathan Nurse, whose mother, Rebecca, had been put to death at the time of the Salem Witch Trials. This house became the home of the Eames family for over 150 years, although Daniel moved to Haverhill in 1748, leaving it to his son, John. Daniel Eames was a partner of Cadwallader Ford, Esq. Together they purchased certificates which the Colony had given its soldiers after taking part in the French and Indian Wars. These certificates were later redeemed for land in Maine.

BUCK HOMESTEAD Circa 1672 and 1770 216 Wildwood Street

The first part of this house was built in 1672 by Roger Buck and his son, Ephraim. It was a duplex from the beginning, with the house, barn and land all being divided. The front part of the house was built around the time of the Revolutionary War. This home remained in the Buck family for over 250 years. Among those to be born in this house were Col. Jonathan Buck, founder of Bucksport in Maine; and Ephraim who as an old man killed the last bear seen in Wilmington. Ephraim, Jr., who was Constable in 1774, paid the taxes to the Town Treasurer instead of to King George III. Another man born here was Benjamin Buck. He gave the parsonage back to the Church in 1876, after it had been turned over to him in payment of a loan.

SITE OF HARNDEN MASSACRE August 12, 1707 North of Woburn Street Schol

One evening we are told, Benjamin Harnden accidently killed an Indian squaw who was lying in the road as he returned home on horseback from Woburn. Several Indians appeared one night bent on revenge to Benjamin's family. But, Benjamin lived in his father's house,and the Indians found the home a few hundred yards to the south belonging to his brother, John, instead. John was not at home. He was a Deacon in the Church at Reading and had gone there on business. The Indians attacked his home, chopped a hole in the roof, and having gained entrance, killed Mrs. Harnden and ten-year-old Mary. One child, fifteen-year-old Abigail, was shot with an arrow and thrown into nearby Morris Pond, where she was revived by the water. The other children ran and hid behind a huge boulder nearby. They were soon discovered and taken captive. However, they were rescued the next day. They were twelve-year-old Susann, four-year-old John and two-year-old Hephzibah.